Investing in Safe and Reliable Schools

Dear Nippersink School District 2 Community,

The Nippersink School District 2 Board of Education is committed to maintaining safe, well-maintained facilities that support student learning. Through careful budgeting and annual capital improvement projects, the District has repaired and replaced roofs, piping, fire-suppression equipment, heating and cooling systems, and other essential building components. These ongoing investments have extended the useful life of our facilities while ensuring safe, reliable learning environments for our students.

Why this work is required

Like every Illinois school district, Nippersink SD 2 is required to complete a comprehensive Health/Life Safety (HLS) survey of each school building every 10 years. The District's most recent survey was conducted by Wold Architects and Engineers and submitted for review and approval by the Regional Office of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education. All identified repairs are then categorized into three priority classifications based on urgency, with each classification establishing the timeframe within which the repairs must be completed.

PRIORITY A REPAIRS	PRIORITY B REPAIRS	PRIORITY C REPAIRS
Complete within 1 year **All District work completed**	Complete within 5 years **Remaining work must now be addressed**	Complete within 10 years **Responsible planning is needed**

Aging buildings and essential systems

The need is significant because of the age of our schools. Nippersink Middle School is approximately 78 years old, while Richmond Grade School and Spring Grove Elementary School were constructed in the 1960s. Nippersink Middle School still contains original piping and steam heating units in many classrooms. Although these systems have served our community well, many have reached or far exceeded their expected service life.

The required work includes major projects such as replacing boilers and classroom heating units, repiping portions of Nippersink Middle School, completing remaining roof replacements, updating fire-suppression systems, and repairing or replacing other critical infrastructure.

The total cost of the identified HLS needs is expected to approach $27 million.

A responsible financing plan

The District has maintained strong financial practices and has funded many facility improvements through its annual budgets. However, the size and required timeline of the current HLS work exceed what can reasonably be paid from annual operating funds and District savings. Delaying these repairs could result in system failures, emergency expenses, and even greater costs in the future.

To complete the required work responsibly, the Board of Education is considering issuing 20-year bonds. This long-term investment would allow the District to complete the projects within the required timelines, protect the community's existing school buildings, and prepare our facilities to serve students for the next 30 years.

Community Information Meetings

The Board invites all community members to attend any of the following public presentations to learn more and provide valuable feedback.

Richmond Grade School	**September 30 at 7:00 p.m.**	5815 Broadway Street, Richmond, IL 60071
Spring Grove Elementary School	**October 7 at 7:00 p.m.**	2018 Main Street, Spring Grove, IL 60081
Nippersink Middle School	**October 14 at 7:00 p.m.**	10006 North Main Street, Richmond, IL 60071

What to expect

Each meeting will include an explanation of the required repairs, project costs, financing process, and long-term benefits to our schools. Following each presentation, community members may ask questions and tour the school to see firsthand the building systems that need to be repaired or replaced.

Preserving strong schools for the future

Our students receive an excellent education, and many families choose to live in our community because of the strength of our schools. By making these necessary investments now, we can preserve that tradition and provide safe, reliable, and updated schools for today's students and generations to come.

Sincerely,

The Nippersink School District 2 Board of Education

Joe Quinn
President

Alie Stansbury
Vice President

Mary Shufelt
Secretary

Joel Johnson
Board Member

Natalie Mailfald
Board Member

Tom Schwartz
Board Member

Katharine Casey
Board Member